

Meeker Christian Church
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2-16-25
Psalms & Prayer

If prayer is powerful - and it is - then prayer is to be a priority for life..

If prayer is our direct contact with our sovereign creator - and it is - then prayer is to be an essential priority of life..

If prayer is necessary for every Christian - and it is - then prayer is to be a priority or accept the consequences.

If prayers are always answered for our eternal good - and they are - then prayer is a priority for every believer..

To reinforce this priority of prayer for our well-being, let's make an investigation of the book of Psalms for some insights prompted by David. The validity of using David as our authority is stated in Acts 13:21-22 by Dr. Luke as he writes of Paul's teaching: *21 And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 And when He {God} had removed him, He {God} raised up for them David as king, to whom also He {God} gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'*

This phrase - a man after My own heart - teaches us that God knew David was deeply committed to HIM, that David demonstrated fidelity to God's law, and desired to be holy and like God. God saw in David an inner character and strength that made him worthy of being anointed as King of Israel. The sins in David's life are a different study that offer hope and encouragement for the rest of us who are today seeking righteous obedience in Kingdom service for our lives after our sins have been dealt with.

So just a few examples of prayer from David in Psalms, starting with Psalms 4:1 *Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.* "Hear me when I call," David understood and expected God to hear Him when he prayed.. Just like the Prophet Elijah's prayer a 100 years or so after David wrote this Psalm.. Prayer is communicating with Creator God -

Not praying to some idol as the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings.

1 Kings 18: 21-22 *And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the*

people answered him not a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

If you do not remember the story, make a note of the scripture and read it. 450 false prophets were soundly defeated and physically eliminated all emanating from the prayer of one lone prophet of God. Here is a Prayer Priority Personal application for you: God and a righteous person are a majority in every situation possible on this earth.

1. YES -- God and you in alignment with GOD's purpose, are a majority in every situation possible on this earth. But there is a qualification as we learn from another insight from the book of Isaiah of which believers must be aware:

Under some circumstances God does not hear prayer - plus so many other lessons when you study Isaiah chapter. Isaiah continues the train of God's thought in *Isaiah 1:11-15 "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" Says the Lord. I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats. 12 "When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts? 13 Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. 14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.*

God is expressing total frustration through Isaiah and intolerance with their form over function of the professed religion of the people of Israel including their prayers...

Now back to David in Psalms 4:1 *Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness!*

- Righteous Definition & Meaning found in Merriam-Webster: The meaning of **RIGHTEOUS** is acting in accord with divine or moral law : free from guilt or sin.

- According to Strong's definition, righteousness is the state of being as one ought to be, the condition acceptable to God. It is the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a life approved of God = to be aligned with God. In the New Testament, righteousness is often used to refer to God's judicial approval. It refers to what is deemed right by the Lord, i.e. what is approved in His eyes. ---in our scripture, David is calling on God who in Himself is in every way totally righteous and has revealed that righteousness to David and all mankind of all time... God in HIS love and mercy, has made that righteousness available to all, and knowing, and understanding, and obeying the parameters of that lifestyle, -- David desires and seeks that righteousness

in his own life. It is not David's perfect attainment of that righteousness, but the realization of God's righteousness imputed to him that David lifts his plea.

2. God's righteousness imputed to us as we are to be reminded with every prayer.

Psalms 4:1 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; David understands God is sovereign over the universe and has power over the concerns, confusion and ignorance of mankind to deal with the circumstances in this life because of unrighteousness. God has gone through such previous experiences with David, and David, while gratefully acknowledging that,- is using those experiences in this particular petition before the heavenly throne.

3. Using our previous experiences in prayer as a basis and guideline in present petitions give us courage and confidence and conviction....

Psalms 4:1 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. David's petition to God for mercy was based on God's much earlier declaration to Moses that was recorded for David to learn from and is recorded for our edification in Romans 9:15 *For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."*

The Hebrew word for mercy, is derived from "racham," which means to love tenderly, pity, sympathize and have compassion. An even earlier definition denotes divine protection similar to a baby in its mother's womb.

4. The reality of the content of our praying is generally pleading mercy for oneself or another.

The desire of this study is for us to learn or be reminded from the Psalmist more about our personal communication with our Heavenly Father. The truth and reality of God's ever presence in our lives. And in so doing that you and I become passionately committed to growing in fullness of life relationship with THE ALMIGHTY. Bringing delight, praise and honor to God///and joy in our own lives.

Psalm 5:1-12 Give ear to my words, O Lord, Consider my meditation. 2 Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray. 3 My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up. 4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. 5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. 6 You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful

man. 7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. 8 Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face. 9 For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue. 10 Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You. 11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You. 12 For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

This book of psalms, these prayers of David, are some 3,000 years old. They contain spiritual guidance and encouragement for believers of every age on this earth until the appearance of Jesus.

Over the years our family has sometimes used Psalms as a daily devotion and taken the time to read 5 chapters each day. I recommend that as a viable and encouraging source for gaining wisdom and righteousness for everyday living.

a few more insights from David's prayers:

Psalms 5:2 Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray. Prayer may be shouted, sung, whispered, or merely thought - the Sovereign Lord hears every utterance, body language, or anything conveying the communication of the heart to the command throne room center of all creation.

Psalms 42:8-11 The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me— A prayer to the God of my life. 9 I will say to God my Rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" 10 As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" 11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

That is a practical revelation of the enemies of prayer - satan and his minions. The whole book of Job has to do with satan's strategies often with similar concerns like David but it leaves us with a verse that deserves our attention to overcome and defeat the adversaries of righteousness on this earth:

Job 1:21 21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." That is life in a capsule.